

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 SMS-01
SAA-01 /087 W
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O 121048Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5477
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 19235

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, MILL, UR, US, XF
SUBJECT: TASS WARNING ON POSSIBLE U.S. TROOP OFFER
FOR M.E.

SUMMARY. TASS ARTICLE REPORTS TALK IN WASHINGTON
CIRCLES THAT U.S. MIGHT OFFER TO EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS
AT CAMP DAVID TO SEND U.S. TROOPS TO M.E. IN OFFICIAL
STYLE, TASS WARNS THAT SUCH A U.S. MOVE WOULD BE
REBUFFED BY THE USSR AND ARAB STATES.

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1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. AUG 12 CENTRAL PRESS CARRIES
STRONGLY WORDED TASS ITEM ON WASHINGTON REPORTS OF
POSSIBLE U.S. OFFER TO SEND TROOP CONTINGENT TO M.E.
AS "GUARANTEE" OF SEPARATE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DEAL.
ARTICLE CITES "INFORMED AMERICAN CIRCLES" TO EFFECT
THAT THIS WILL BE ONE OF "CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTIONS"
FOR CAMP DAVID MEETING WHICH PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER

BRZEZINSKI MENTIONED TO CORRESPONDENTS.

2. IN STERN, OFFICIAL TONE, TASS ARTICLE STATES THAT:

-- SUCH INTRODUCTION OF U.S. TROOPS WOULD BE A NEW ELEMENT FILLED WITH FAR-REACHING, DANGEROUS CONSEQUENCES;

-- HISTORY SHOWS THAT SIMILAR TYPES OF ACTIONS HAVE INVOLVED SHARP EXACERBATION OF THE SITUATION. SINCE THIS IS WELL KNOWN IN WASHINGTON, THE LEGITIMATE QUESTION ARISES WHETHER THIS HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BY THOSE WHO ARE ALLOWING THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING U.S. ARMED FORCES TO THE M.E.;

-- ARAB COUNTRIES AND SOCIALIST STATES ARE BY NO MEANS INDIFFERENT TO SITUATION TAKING SHAPE IN DIRECT PROXIMITY TO THEIR BORDERS;

-- IF THESE PLANS ARE ACTUALLY PUT INTO PRACTICE, THEN THEY WILL MEET WITH A "MOST DECISIVE REBUFF" FROM ALL INDEPENDENT ARAB STATES AND FROM THOSE -- INCLUDING THE SOVIET UNION -- WHO ARE FOR A COMPREHENSIVE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN THE M.E. END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. COMMENT: THIS TASS ARTICLE IS OBVIOUSLY MEANT TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. WE NOTE THAT ARTICLE IS NOT CONFIDENTIAL

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DATE LINED, AN INDICATION THAT IT COMES FROM THE MOSCOW CENTER AND THUS APPROACHES THE LEVEL OF AN OFFICIAL TASS "STATEMENT". WE NOTE THAT THE ARTICLE'S REFERENCE TO THE EXACERBATION CAUSED BY PREVIOUS MILITARY MOVES IN THE M.E. CAN BE READ NOT ONLY AS A REMINDER OF SUCH WESTERN INTERVENTION AS SUEZ AND LEBANON IN THE 50'S, BUT ALSO AS A REMINDER OF THE U.S. REACTION IN OCTOBER, 1977 TO REPORTS OF A POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF SOVIET TROOPS INTO THE M.E. TOON

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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PEPR, MILI, SOPN, UR, US, XF
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